

DATE: March 19, 2010

TO: State Early Childhood System and Education Leaders

FROM: Jamie Palagi, Bureau Chief, Early Childhood Services Bureau, DPHHS
Mary Jane Standaert, Head Start State Collaboration Director/ECCS Coordinator

RE: Community Collaboration at the 5th Annual School Readiness Summit

While the state continues to refine its leadership through collaboration on behalf of young children, an exciting opportunity is coming our way that will not only benefit the larger strategic systemic work, but will provide a professional development opportunity for individuals as well. Montana is fortunate to have the opportunity to bring in **Dr. Carl Larson** and **Dr. Darrin Hicks** from the **University of Denver**. Both men are professors of human communication studies and researchers who have a strong understanding of the impact of effective partnerships on program outcomes. They focus on leadership for building creative, authentic, and high quality collaborations. Their style of presentation is fun, interactive, and grounded in practical application.

Additionally, you will have the opportunity to connect with community school readiness/early childhood teams from across the state. These teams can help support a variety of statewide efforts in their communities.

You are cordially invited to take part in this exciting event! We welcome you and other staff and hope that your contacts in communities will find ways to connect with their community teams- they are all working to improve outcomes for the same people!

Thank you!

Date:	April 15 & 16, 2010
Time:	9:00 am -5:00 pm and 8:30 am to 1:00pm
Location:	Brondel Center at St. Helena's Cathedral
RSVP by 4/2:	Mary Jane Standaert, 444-0589, mjstandaert@mt.gov

